



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Local Government Assistance

# **New Mayor Packet**

## **2022**





## State of New Jersey

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**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**  
*Commissioner*

Dear Mayor,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your election to Mayor. Public service to one's community is both challenging and rewarding.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is committed to working with municipal governments across the State to coordinate information, keep open lines of communication, and resolve environmental concerns. My office, the Office of Local Government Assistance, will be in communication with you regularly to provide notice of important initiatives, special projects, and grant and loan opportunities. We act as your liaison to the Department, facilitating meetings and communications with various programs.

Since assuming my role as Director, I have travelled throughout all 21 counties and visited all 564 towns. I have met with many mayors in my visits to their municipalities. I hope to meet with you soon to learn more about you and your community. Each of New Jersey's 564 towns has a distinct and important voice. It is my job to make sure that voice is heard in Trenton.

Within this package, you will find some general information on the topics most commonly raised during my meetings with mayors. I hope you find this a useful introduction to the Department and the services we can provide your town. In addition, my office will be sending weekly email updates on various activities throughout the State.

Should you have need of this office, please do not hesitate to contact me. Again, my heartiest congratulations as you step into your new role. I am here to help you navigate the Department, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards,

Kerry Kirk Pflugh  
Director

## Table of Contents

Major DEP Initiatives.....	5
Climate Resilience .....	5
Energy .....	5
Offshore Wind.....	5
Electric Vehicles .....	5
NJPACT .....	6
Adaptation – Resilient Environments and Landscapes .....	6
Mitigation – Climate Pollutant Reduction.....	6
Environmental Justice .....	7
NJ Environmental Justice Law .....	7
Opportunities and Implications for Municipalities .....	8
Environmental Emergency Preparedness.....	8
DEP Environmental Action Hotline: 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) .....	8
DEP Weather Ready .....	8
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) .....	8
Environmental Disaster Solid Waste Planning.....	9
Important Environmental Funding .....	9
Site Remediation and Waste Management.....	10
Brownfield Redevelopment and the Community Collaborative Initiative.....	10
Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund .....	10
Site Remediation and the Known Contaminated Sites List .....	10
Home Heating Oil Tanks (Unregulated Underground Storage Tanks).....	11
Storm Preparedness and Temporary Debris Management Areas.....	11
Recycling .....	12
Plastic Bag Ban Law.....	12
Electronic Waste Recycling .....	12
Food Waste Reduction.....	13
Food Waste-to-Energy Production Law .....	13
Recycling Tonnage Grants.....	13
Clean Communities Program .....	14
Compliance and Enforcement.....	14

Environmental Concerns.....	14
Coastal Land Use Enforcement .....	14
Guard Your Backyard: “Dirty Dirt” .....	15
Land Use Enforcement.....	15
Water Enforcement .....	15
Solid Waste Enforcement .....	15
Fish and Wildlife Conservation .....	16
Black Bear Safety.....	16
Forests, Historic Sites and Parks .....	16
State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites .....	16
New Jersey State Park Police .....	16
New Jersey Forest Service.....	17
Urban and Community Forestry .....	17
Private Lands Program .....	17
Forest Health Program.....	17
Big tree Conservation Program.....	17
Forest Resource Education Center.....	17
State Lands Program .....	18
Office of Natural Lands Management.....	18
Forest Fire Service.....	18
Air Quality, Energy, and Sustainability.....	19
Division of Air Enforcement .....	19
Odors.....	19
Division of Air Quality .....	19
Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure.....	19
Division of Climate Change, Clean Energy and Radiation Protection .....	20
Radon .....	20
Sustainability.....	20
Small Business Assistance Program .....	20
Sustainable Business Registry .....	20
Sustainable Community Pages.....	20
School Food Waste Guidance .....	21
WasteWise Business Network .....	21

Water Resource Management.....	21
Division of Water Supply & Geoscience.....	21
Drinking Water Systems.....	21
Water Accountability Act.....	21
Lead Service Line Replacement.....	22
Division of Water Quality.....	22
Contaminants of Emerging Concern .....	22
NJ Infrastructure Bank .....	23
Division of Water Monitoring & Standards.....	23
Integrated Report.....	23
Category One Waters.....	23
AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program .....	24
Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms .....	24
Beach Program.....	24
Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement .....	25
Watershed and Land Management .....	26
Reorganization .....	26
WLM Division of Resilience Engineering and Construction .....	26
Office of Dam Safety and Flood Engineering .....	26
Office of Coastal Engineering.....	26
Dataminer .....	27
Electronic Submission .....	27
Flooding.....	27
Public Access .....	28
Stormwater Utilities.....	28
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4) Renewal .....	29
Amended Stormwater Management Rules and Ordinances .....	29
Other Program Areas .....	30
Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests.....	30
Office of Permitting and Project Navigation.....	30
Seasonal Concerns .....	30
Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI).....	31
Green Acres.....	31

Blue Acres .....	31
Historic Preservation Process .....	32
Asbestos.....	32
Abandoned and Unclaimed Property .....	32
Further Information Available .....	32

## Major DEP Initiatives

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### Climate Resilience

In recognition of the scientific community's consensus on the current and anticipated impacts of climate change in addition to New Jersey's vulnerability to them, and the necessity to coordinate and integrate climate change considerations into planning and decision-making at all levels of government to make New Jersey more resilient and foster adaptation to the effects of climate change, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 89 on October 29th, 2019. This executive order established the position of New Jersey Chief Resilience Officer who is tasked with developing a [Scientific Report on Climate Change](#), and development and implementation of the [Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy and Coastal Resilience Plan](#) in coordination with the [Interagency Council on Climate Resilience](#).

Under direction of the Chief Resilience Officer, the Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning (BCRP) provides guidance, resources, and technical support to communities in their efforts to plan for and address the current and anticipated impacts of climate change through the [Resilient NJ](#) program. The Resilient NJ program currently includes four regional resilience planning projects, small grants to support local planning, the [Local Climate Resilience Planning Toolkit](#), and review of climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessments as required by the Municipal Land Use Law. BCRP coordinates with DEP policies, programs, and activities to plan for and promote public awareness of climate change science, and administers the [New Jersey Coastal Management Program](#) which addresses some of today's most pressing coastal issues, including sustainable and resilient coastal community planning, ocean planning, public access, and planning for energy facilities and development.

The path to a climate-resilient New Jersey starts with collaboration between State and local governments. The Department wants to hear from municipalities about what assistance they need to support their efforts to improve their resilience. Please email [resilientnj@dep.nj.gov](mailto:resilientnj@dep.nj.gov) with any ideas or suggestions.

### Energy

#### Offshore Wind

Through Executive Order 28, Governor Murphy established the goal of setting New Jersey on the path to 100% clean energy by 2050. Building upon that goal, in 2019, Executive Order #92 effectively raised New Jersey's offshore wind goal from 3,500 megawatts by 2030 to 7,500 megawatts by 2035. In the United States, the [Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#) (BOEM) regulates renewable energy activities in federal waters on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). In New Jersey, federal waters commence 3 nautical miles offshore. NJDEP has authority for state permitting; including regulatory oversight of offshore wind energy transmission cables and infrastructure built in state waters; as well as onshore activities. Within state waters and on regulated lands, the construction of associated facilities such as electrical substations, and the installation of cables and transmission lines will likely require several NJDEP permits. There are currently four proposed projects off the coast of Cape May, Atlantic, Ocean and Monmouth Counties. Additionally, in January 2022, BOEM announced six new lease areas in the NY Bight, which will be auctioned to offshore wind developers for future development. Please see NJDEP's [offshore wind webpage](#) for additional information.

### Electric Vehicles

On January 17, 2020, Governor Murphy signed landmark legislation to boost the use of plug-in electric vehicles, or EVs, in New Jersey. The law creates a rebate program for EV vehicle purchases, sets goals for



New Jersey's network of public charging stations, sets goals for EV sales, authorizes the Board of Public Utilities to create an incentive program for in-home EV chargers, and requires the State government to lead by example, with minimum percentages of state-owned non-emergency light duty service vehicles to convert to electric. Several electric vehicle grant programs have been created and are administered by the Department, Board of Public Utilities and Economic Development Authority to aid local governments in the transition of their fleets to electric vehicles. More information about these electrification initiatives can be found in the Air Quality, Energy, and Sustainability section of this Packet.

## NJPACT

### Adaptation – Resilient Environments and Landscapes

To implement Governor Murphy's Executive Order 100 and Commissioner McCabe's Administrative Order 2020-01, the Department is proposing New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJ PACT) – Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) which will modernize the Coastal Zone Management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1 et seq.), the Freshwater Wetlands Protect Act rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.1 et seq.) and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules (N.J.A.C. 7:13-1.1 et seq.) (collectively referred to as the "land use rules") to enable government, businesses, and residents to effectively respond to current and future climate threats. Specifically, the land use rules are being amended to address the unavoidable impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather, and chronic flooding. The proposed amendments and new rules will help to build resilient communities by avoiding flood prone areas, reestablishing chronically inundated wetlands, revegetating riparian areas, and encouraging green building and infrastructure. This rulemaking focuses on seven themes: inundation and flooding, critical facilities and infrastructure, permits-by-registration, increased protection of land and water resources, planning for climate change, nature-based solutions, and renewable energy and green building design. Additional information regarding NJ PACT can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njpact/>.

### Mitigation – Climate Pollutant Reduction

#### *NJPACT Stationary Sources Rule Proposal*

On December 6, 2021, the Department proposed new rules to reduce CO2 emissions from: (1) fossil fuel-fired electric generating units (EGUs) through the application of output-based emission limits, (2) certain commercial and industrial fossil fuel-fired boilers based upon an additional permit requirement, and (3) No. 4 and No. 6 fuel oil by banning its sale and use. The new rules will have the additional benefit of reducing air pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, direct particulate matter, and hazardous air pollutants. In addition to the new permit requirement for certain boilers, the Department is proposing a boiler fleet reporting requirement, which may inform future rulemaking.

#### *NJPACT Advanced Clean Truck Rule Adoption*

The Department adopted new rules, effective November 2021, as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and short-lived climate pollutants. The rules incorporate by reference California's Advanced Clean Truck regulations which are intended to accelerate a large-scale transition to zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The rule affects manufacturers that sell more than 500 medium and heavy-duty vehicles in NJ annually. Those manufacturers are required to sell zero-emission trucks as an increasing percentage of their annual sales from 2025 to 2035.

#### *NJPACT Cargo Handling Equipment Rule Proposal*

On January 3, 2022, the Department proposed new rules to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions from diesel mobile cargo handling equipment at ports and intermodal rail yards.

Specifically, the Department's proposed rules are modeled on a California regulation and would require diesel mobile cargo handling equipment at ports and intermodal rail yards to meet performance standards that reflect best available control technology. The proposed rules are expected to reduce diesel engine emissions, including NOx and PM, in communities located near ports and intermodal rail yards. A public hearing will be held February 9, 2022.

### Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. NJDEP's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) works on DEP's EJ priorities: amending DEP's internal work to incorporate EJ; facilitating a council of NJ agencies to amend the way the entire state achieves EJ; and engaging with overburdened communities to remove barriers to accessing resources so that communities are better informed, heard, and able to advocate for justice locally. The Office of Local Government Assistance helps facilitate the work of the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) and the Department's engagement with overburdened communities, such as the Commissioner's "Environmental Justice Community Engagement Sessions".

Pursuant to Governor Murphy's Executive Order 23, DEP has developed guidance on how all Executive Branch agencies in the state can incorporate environmental justice into their actions and has been facilitating the work of the Environmental Justice Interagency Council (EJIC). All state agencies are currently developing EJ Initial Assessments to evaluate opportunities within their key programs, policies, and general operations to advance environmental justice. This will be followed by EJ Action Plans to implement the opportunities identified.

The DEP is also developing rules to implement New Jersey's recently passed [Environmental Justice Law](#). New Jersey is the first state in the nation to require mandatory permit denials if an environmental justice analysis determines a new facility will have a disproportionately negative impact on overburdened communities. The law will go into effect upon the adoption of rules and regulations.

### NJ Environmental Justice Law

- Defines an Overburdened Community (OBC) as any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which:
  1. at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households (at or below twice the poverty threshold as determined by the United States Census Bureau);
  2. at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or
  3. at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency (without an adult that speaks English "very well" according to the United States Census Bureau).
- Requires the DEP to evaluate the environmental and public health impacts of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications, such as resource recovery facilities, incinerators, and scrap metal facilities, through environmental justice impact statements (EJIS) from applicants.

- Gives DEP the authority to deny, or add conditions for the approval of permits, based on public meetings and the review of the impact statements, where appropriate.

### Opportunities and Implications for Municipalities

- Municipalities can review the following resources:
  - o [recordings](#) of the EJ rulemaking stakeholder meetings
  - o [overburdened communities' data](#) and [EJ Mapping Tool](#)
  - o [webinar](#) and [presentation](#) to help municipalities understand the EJ Law and corresponding data on the OEJ website.
- Once the EJ rules are proposed, municipalities can participate in the public comment period to provide feedback on the rules before adoption.
- Permit applicants subject to the law will have to prepare an EJS and conduct enhanced public engagement in the overburdened community in which the applicant is proposing to locate the applicable facility. Municipalities can help publicize these engagement opportunities to their residents.
- Utilizing the OBC map to understand which OBCs exist within your municipality may highlight investment opportunities for those communities.

Additional information about DEP's work to implement E.O. 23, the EJ Rulemaking process, OBCs and DEP's other work with environmental justice can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/>.

### Environmental Emergency Preparedness

DEP's Emergency Management Program is committed 24/7/365 to ensure the safety of the people of New Jersey and protect the environment during all-hazard emergency situations by supporting the network of DEP responders and working closely with federal, state, county, and local partners.

#### DEP Environmental Action Hotline: 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337)

The NJDEP Environmental Action Hotline (877) WARN DEP is available 24 hours a day to address environmental concerns and hazardous conditions that are occurring throughout New Jersey's communities. The Communication Operators generate incident reports that provide information to Department decision makers and management team. The NJDEP also has a phone app that allows stakeholders to submit non-emergency reports along with photos and GPS information. The Communication Center also serves as a dispatch center for DEP law enforcement and First Responders.

#### DEP Weather Ready

The Department has developed a webpage to help New Jersey be "Weather Ready". This page will be updated with resources and information from DEP to reference for weather events that affect our state and can be found at: <https://nj.gov/dep/weatherready>.

### Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 was enacted to help communities plan for chemical emergencies. EPCRA required each state to designate a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) which is responsible for establishing emergency planning districts and overseeing Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). For NJ, the SERC/LEPC was created by Governor Kean's Executive Order 161 in 1987 and recently updated by Governor Murphy's Executive Order 284 on January 20, 2022.

Under EPCRA, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) must develop an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), review the plan at least annually, and provide information about chemicals in the community to citizens. Plans are developed by LEPCs with stakeholder participation.

For additional resources to inform LEPCs and community members about EPCRA, NJ's SERC, and requirements for LEPC Emergency Response Plans (ERPs), visit: <http://ready.nj.gov/serc/index.shtml>.

### Environmental Disaster Solid Waste Planning

With any disaster event ranging from hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, blizzards, snowstorms, tornadoes, extreme winds and other natural and man-made situations, there will be various types of solid waste debris generated as a result of these events. Once the event has passed, it then becomes critical for municipalities to implement a plan for the removal of the debris generated from within their jurisdictions. The types of solid waste vary by disaster event and can include residential waste, commercial waste, hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, industrial waste, white goods (appliances), electronic waste, bulky waste (such as furniture and mattresses), and vegetative waste (such as branches and tree limbs).

In order to provide assistance to municipalities before, during and after for disaster events, the Department's Division of Sustainable Waste Management has developed a website at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/debris/index.html>. One of the items on the website intended to assist the municipalities is a Disaster Debris Management Planning Tool Kit (Tool Kit). A revised version of this document will be available on the Department's website for use by municipalities in Spring 2022. The website also provides information on the application process for receiving an approval for a Temporary Debris Management Area (TDMA) and contacts for DEP, NJOEM and FEMA, as well as references to the various FEMA manuals that are applicable to a disaster event. In addition, the website contains information on state debris contracts. The Department currently has several State procured contracts to assist government entities in dealing with debris generating events. The contracts are intended to be used by State Agencies as well as Counties and Municipalities that participate in the Cooperative Purchasing Partners program. These contracts can be used only during a Federally, State, County or Municipally Declared Disaster, and are not designed to be used to manage an entity's normal waste generation.

### Important Environmental Funding

In addition to the low interest loans made available by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (NJ I-Bank) for water quality and transportation, there are a number of grants and loan programs geared towards municipalities available through the DEP and sister agencies like the NJ Economic Development Authority and the Board of Public Utilities. To learn more about these grants and loans, please visit the [NJDEP Grants and Loans](#) page which lists all available funding opportunities.

## Site Remediation and Waste Management

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### Brownfield Redevelopment and the Community Collaborative Initiative

Under the Brownfields Development Area (BDA) approach, NJDEP works with selected communities affected by multiple brownfields to design and implement remediation and reuse plans for these properties simultaneously. The BDA approach enables remediation and reuse to occur in a coordinated fashion. In the process, the DEP invites various stakeholders, including owners of contaminated properties, potentially responsible parties, developers, community groups, technical experts for the local government and residents, and residents themselves, to participate in this cleanup and revitalization approach. In the selected BDAs, NJDEP will work closely with other involved agencies and offices, including the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA), New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and New Jersey Business Action Center, to remediate and revitalize communities and neighborhoods, not just individual properties.

If there is a designated brownfield development area that a township has an interest they can contact the Office of Local Government Assistance and they can facilitate meetings with the appropriate programs. For general information about the Office of Brownfield & Community Revitalization, including past success stories, please visit their website: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/brownfields/>.

### Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund

For contaminated sites where the responsible party is no longer viable, Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) grants and loans may be available to public and private entities that perform remediation pursuant to DEP's Site Remediation Program requirements. More information about this program can be found here: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/finance/hdsrf/>. Further questions can be directed to the Office of Brownfield & Community Revitalization at (609) 984-1790. The Site Remediation and Waste Management Program (SRWMP) timeline for review of an HDSRF application is approximately 9 months. However, there are many steps in the redevelopment process that can move in parallel while SRWMP processes a municipality's application. If a municipality has concerns, please contact the Office of Brownfield & Community Revitalization (OBCR) directly. The office can also provide information about quarterly Brownfield Roundtable meetings held at the DEP. DEP uses the quarterly meetings to learn what efforts are working and what challenges public entities face during their redevelopment projects.

### Site Remediation and the Known Contaminated Sites List

The remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites is a priority in the master plan of many communities throughout the State. Under the Site Remediation and Reform Act, the party responsible for the contamination must hire a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to oversee the cleanup of the site. The Department does not handle the remediation directly. The LSRP manages the remediation and files reports with the Department at specific milestones, updating us on the progress. Due to the time length between reports, for the most current update on a remediation, the Office of Local Government Assistance suggests municipalities contact the LSRP directly. In general, the first step of remediation is to perform a preliminary assessment and site investigation to evaluate the historical operations and identify any contaminated areas of concern. A remedial investigation is then conducted to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination on and emanating from the site. Following, a remedial action plan will be developed, and the site will undergo remedial action. The LSRP will issue a Response Action Outcome when the process is complete.

For a list of all contaminated sites within a municipality, visit [the following link](#) and search “Municipal Report: All Sites.”

### Home Heating Oil Tanks (Unregulated Underground Storage Tanks)

Older storage tanks for home heating oil - whether underground, above-ground, or in the basement - can rust and leak over time and contaminate soil or ground water. This poses a number of environmental/health risks, and New Jersey law requires homeowners to take prompt action to minimize those risks. For more information regarding the Underground Heating Oil Tank program, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/unregulatedtanks/>.

The Petroleum Underground Storage Tank (UST) Fund provides financial assistance in the form of loans and grants to eligible owners and operators for the closure and remediation of discharges from petroleum underground storage tanks. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of funding and new applications will continue to be accepted but will be processed when funding becomes available. Currently there is a 3.5 year wait on all new applications.

Occasionally, communities will discover an underground storage tank, of which they were not aware and did not know was present on publicly owned property. Government entities are eligible for zero interest loans under the UST Fund if the tank/property is municipally owned. Currently the UST Fund is only opened to Unregulated USTs and newly discovered Regulated USTs. For a newly discovered Regulated UST to be eligible for financial assistance, the application must be submitted within eighteen (18) months from the date of discovery of the UST. If such a tank is discovered please feel free to contact the Office of Local Government. Alternatively, a municipality may pursue HDSRF funding.

### Storm Preparedness and Temporary Debris Management Areas

As we learned during recovery from Hurricane Ida in September 2022 and from many other storms before that, one of the most important steps you can take NOW to be prepared for the next storm is to obtain pre-approval of a Temporary Debris Management Area (TDMA). This is an area in your town that has been approved by DEP for temporary storage of disaster event related debris until it can be transported to a disposal facility or recycling center, and having a TDMA in place can help fast track clean-up from even smaller events. Storing debris without this approval, even temporarily, is a violation of New Jersey’s Solid Waste Rules, and may also jeopardize cost reimbursement opportunities from FEMA during a Federally declared emergency event. Applying for a TDMA Pre-Approval is easy and IT’S FREE! The application, instructions, and guidance documents can be found at: [www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/debris/tdma.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/debris/tdma.html). Just fill out the four-page fillable PDF form, attach a site drawing and current site pictures and submit it to the Department via e-mail.

If assistance is required filling out the form, or there are questions about TDMAs, contact the Division of Sustainable Waste Management by phone at (609) 633-1418 or by e-mail at [solidwasteemergencies@dep.nj.gov](mailto:solidwasteemergencies@dep.nj.gov).

At a TDMA, the following debris may be stored:

- Vegetative Debris: trees, tree limbs, tree trunks, brush
- Construction and Demolition Debris: plywood, wallboard, concrete, carpets, glass
- Bulky Solid Waste: couches, furniture, large household items

- White Goods: refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers
- Household Hazardous Waste: oil, paint, lawn chemicals, household cleaners
- e-Waste: TVs, computers, monitors, laptops
- Municipal Solid Waste: putrescible and non-putrescible

The Department urges all municipalities to apply NOW by submitting a TDMA Pre-Approval form BEFORE the next event occurs. Once approved, a TDMA site pre-approval does not expire, unless site conditions or requirements change.

### Recycling

Due to a changing market, many municipalities have faced challenges related to recycling. DEP made the smart phone application Recycle Coach available free of charge to all municipalities. The app allows a resident to see information specific to their town, including what days recycling is conducted, and what specific materials are recycled in their municipality. It is free of charge for the resident to use as well.

In the summer of 2019, DEP also launched a “Recycle Right” social media campaign to remind the public about the importance of keeping contaminants out of the recycling stream. This includes a toolkit for municipalities to use on their own social media. Messages for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram can be found on DEP’s website: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html>. These are also available for all interested municipalities to download and use. DEP’s [recycle.nj.gov](https://www.recycle.nj.gov) website contains much helpful information about recycling.

### Plastic Bag Ban Law

On Nov. 4, 2020, Governor Murphy signed P.L. 2020, c. 117 into law. The Law bans the sale/provision of single-use plastic carryout bags from stores and food service businesses, and single-use paper carryout bags (only from grocery stores larger than or equal to 2,500 square feet). The Law also imposes a ban on polystyrene foam food service products. The ban on these bags and food service products becomes effective on May 4, 2022. Additionally, per the Law, beginning on Nov. 4, 2021, food service businesses can only provide single-use plastic straws to a customer upon request.

New Jersey municipalities should be aware that if the town has a bag ban in place, the State Law will supersede beginning May 4, 2022. In addition, municipalities certified pursuant to the “County Environmental Health Act,” (CEHA) shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this law, P.L. 2020, c.117 (C.13:1E-99.126 et al) and may retain 30 percent of any penalty it collects pursuant to the law. For more information please visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/>.

### Electronic Waste Recycling

Consumers (person, State entity, school district, local government units and small businesses) in New Jersey must recycle (since e-waste is banned from disposal at landfills) certain electronic devices (free of charge) at approved manufacturers’ collection site locations. All computers, monitors, laptops, portable computers, televisions, desktop printers and desktop fax machines are accepted for recycling. The Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste maintains an e-Waste website page, <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/ewaste/index.html>, with helpful background information on this topic.



To find an Authorized Recycler for a municipality or visit:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/ewaste/authorizedrecycler.pdf>. From there, a municipality can check with the local collection site to determine if they will accept other electronic devices. If there are any questions about this process, the Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste, e waste unit can be reached at 609-984-3438 or via email at [ecycle@dep.nj.gov](mailto:ecycle@dep.nj.gov).

### Food Waste Reduction

According to ReFED, Americans throw out the equivalent of \$218 billion worth of food each year. P.L. 2017, c. 136 (S3027) was signed into law on July 21, 2017 which established a goal of reducing food waste by 50%, based on 2017 food waste estimates, by the year 2030. SRWMP created a plan that will guide the state to achieve the reduction goal and outlines the issues of wasted food and possible short and long-term actions that can be implemented. The plan can be accessed by visiting:

[https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste/food\\_waste\\_plan\\_draft.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste/food_waste_plan_draft.pdf). For tips on how to reduce wasted food, visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste/>.

### Food Waste-to-Energy Production Law

On April 14, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed P.L. 2020, c. 24 into law. The Law requires that each food waste generator that generates an average projected volume of 52 or more tons per year of food waste and is located within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility must separate their food waste from the rest of their solid waste and recycle the food waste portion subject to the parameters in the Law. Compliance with the Law is required as of October 14, 2021. The Law also established the Food Waste Recycling Market Development Council to research end uses for recycled food waste and provide recommendations on changes needed to State laws or rules or regulations to stimulate the market for these end uses. Additionally, the Law requires economic benefit for municipality within which an authorized food waste recycling facility is located. For more information please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste-recycling-law/>.

### Recycling Tonnage Grants

The “Clean Communities and Recycling Act” of 1981 and subsequent legislation including the Recycling Enhancement Act in 2007 created the Municipal Tonnage Grant Recycling Program, whereby municipalities could receive a grant for recycling and documenting the materials recycled in a previous calendar year. Since 1987, submission of the annual Recycling Tonnage Report by July 15 each year has been mandatory, but is required by April 30, along with other information to qualify for a grant.

New Jersey assesses a \$3.00 tax per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at New Jersey solid waste facilities. 60% of the money collected from this tax is distributed back to municipalities through the annual Recycling Tonnage Grants program to municipalities. The Recycling Enhancement Act tax moneys received by a municipality may be used only for recycling programs.

Submission of the annual report of material recycled the calendar year before by April 30, which is mandatory (required by July 15 if not applying for a grant), and other information will make a municipality eligible to receive this grant money. The program runs on a two-year cycle: for example, a municipality recycles in 2015, it is reported to DEP in 2016, and it receives grant payment in 2017. Complete instructions and more information about the report can be found here:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/Tonnage/index.htm>.



## Clean Communities Program

New Jersey Clean Communities is a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement program created by the passage of the Clean Communities Act in 1986. The Act places a tax on litter generating products; the funds generated each year are then returned to municipalities, counties, State parks, and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council. 80% of the funding goes to municipalities. Grant amounts are based on population, housing units, road mileage, and other factors. The amount of grant varies per year, based on the tax receipts, but a minimum grant amount for a municipality is \$4,000. At present, only seven municipalities are not eligible to receive Clean Communities Funding. They are: Loch Arbour (Monmouth), Millstone Borough (Somerset), Rockleigh (Bergen), Tavistock (Camden), Teterboro (Bergen) and Walpack (Sussex). The Clean Communities Act requires municipalities and counties receiving Clean Communities grant funds to file statistical reports by June 30 of each year. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.njclean.org/>.

## Compliance and Enforcement

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### Environmental Concerns

If a municipality has an environmental concern in their town, or suspect some illegal activity, please call the Department's 24-hour hotline, 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337). A dispatcher will take information about the concern and relay it to an inspector for follow up. If a person wishes to remain anonymous, they can. Environmental concerns may include, but are not limited to, unpermitted activities, wetlands concerns, illegal hunting, illegal dumping, hazardous material spills, odor complaints, and any other potential concerns. In addition, DEP's Compliance and Enforcement has developed a program to curb illegal dumping on State lands, "Don't Waste Our Open Space". Learn more about the program, including how to download the smartphone reporting app, here: <http://www.stopdumping.nj.gov/>. Several municipalities have begun a similar program to stop illegal dumping on municipal property. If a municipality is interested in establishing a similar program, please let the Office of Local Government Assistance.

### Coastal Land Use Enforcement

The Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Compliance and Enforcement is responsible for ensuring compliance with six land use statutes: Waterfront and Harbor Facilities Act; Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA); Wetlands Act of 1970; Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act; Flood Hazard Area Control Act; and Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

These statutes provide DEP with the authority to regulate development activities, including construction of structures and filling and clearing of vegetation, within environmentally sensitive areas. Environmentally sensitive areas include beaches, dunes, wetlands, and floodplains. The Bureau becomes aware of possible violations primarily through complaints, or incidents, received through the Hotline (1-877-WARN-DEP). Complaints are commonly reported by municipal or county officials, private citizens, or other public and private organizations. Bureau staff evaluate compliance with applicable regulations and/or existing permit conditions. If a violation has occurred, enforcement documents are issued to the property owner to compel compliance either by obtaining the necessary permits or restoring the site to pre-disturbance conditions. The Bureau also provides compliance assistance to municipalities and private citizens unfamiliar with the regulations. On many occasions, the local construction office is the first place a property owner will turn to seek information on permit requirements for their project. Municipalities, particularly their zoning, construction, land use planning, public works, engineers, and

administrative offices play an extremely important role in ensuring compliance with DEP land use regulations. Opportunities for outreach and education are available throughout the year, some of which include Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for licensed professionals.

### Guard Your Backyard: “Dirty Dirt”

Clean soil or “clean fill” is often trucked into residential sites throughout New Jersey. Clean soil is fine, but sometimes “clean fill”, which is sold or offered free of charge, might contain contaminants that should not be on residential property. Effective action to stop illegal fill dumping begins at the municipal level, where local governments can enact a municipal soil and fill ordinance. This gives the municipality authority over soil brought into municipal boundaries and placed on construction, development and residential properties.

DEP’s “Guard Your Backyard” website offers a model ordinance, as well as information on the differences between soil and solid waste; examples of these municipal laws at work; and information for municipalities, industry leaders, and residents. For more information, please visit DEP’s Guard Your Backyard website, <https://www.nj.gov/dep/guardyourbackyard/>.

### Land Use Enforcement

Board and administrative approvals at the local level continue to be conditioned upon Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) review to the most practical extent. The objective here is to ensure that municipal approvals don’t conflict with the NJDEP’s Land Use laws and rules, which could result in residents having an unintended Land Use violation.

### Water Enforcement

The Water Compliance & Enforcement program is responsible for ensuring compliance with the State's water programs. A particular focus is placed on inspections of wastewater discharge and community drinking water supply facilities.

Municipalities should also focus on annual MS4 permits/inspections and their associated requirements such as annual reports, CCRs, and public outreach. Please see [https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/msrp\\_home.htm](https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/msrp_home.htm) for more information. DWE’s objectives are to maintain compliance with the NJDEP’s Water Supply and NJPDES programs to ensure optimal drinking and water quality standards.

### Solid Waste Enforcement

The Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement program ensures garbage (“solid waste”) and recyclables are properly managed through enforcement of the Solid Waste Management Act, and the Solid Waste Utility Control Act. The program would like to remind municipalities that Public Works sites are subject to a number of regulatory oversight programs. For example these locations may collect certain waste streams (recyclables or household hazardous waste), have on-site fuel storage (above or underground tanks), vehicle storage and maintenance (potential impacts to stormwater), or inadvertently create community concerns that are reported to the NJDEP hotline. Compliance assistance to proactively address these concerns is available from all programs within C&E and can be arranged by contacting the Divisional or Bureau offices.

## Fish and Wildlife Conservation

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The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife protects and manages the State's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic values for all New Jerseyans. Up-to-date information about hunting, fishing, licenses, fish stocking, management programs, educational programs, and regulations can be found on their [website](#). If a municipality has a specific question about any of these topics, the Office of Local Government Assistance be happy to put you in touch with the appropriate staff. Fish and Wildlife staff can also provide valuable information about wildlife management. Many mayors have approached the Office of Local Government Assistance with concerns about deer populations and alternative control methods including community-based deer management permits. Prior to instituting ordinances which may prohibit or limit hunting, trapping or fishing in your area please reach out to the Office of Local Government Assistance. We will be happy to facilitate conversations with you and our state wildlife biologists. Feel free to give the office a call to discuss.

### Black Bear Safety

Communities in New Jersey may encounter black bears, which are native to the State. The States uses a system of Black Bear Rating and Response Criteria to dictate how to respond to the presence of a bear. The BBRRC defines three categories of black bear behavior: Category I, bears which are a threat to public safety and property; Category II, nuisance bears which are not a threat to public safety or property; and Category III, bears exhibit normal behavior and are not a nuisance or threat to public safety. For more information on bear safety in New Jersey, please visit the [Bear Safety Tips page](#).

Please share these with your residents and let them know they can report black bear-human conflicts, nuisance behavior, and bear damage to DEP's 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337). For all other wildlife-human conflicts, except Black Bear, please call (908) 735-4513. The Division of Fish and Wildlife urges municipalities to encourage residents to follow proper waste management procedures to limit attracting nuisance wildlife, including black bears.

## Forests, Historic Sites and Parks

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### State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites

Comprised of 40 state parks, 11 state forests, 3 recreation areas, 4 marinas and 20 historic sites, chances are there is a State Park Service managed property in or around your municipality. A full list of state parks, forests, recreation areas and historic sites can be found by visiting [njparksandforests.org](http://njparksandforests.org). Annual state park passes can be purchased online by New Jersey residents for \$50 by visiting [yourpassnow.com/parkpass/nj](http://yourpassnow.com/parkpass/nj).

Additionally, New Jersey residents aged 62 or over and those who are fully disabled may obtain a pass entitling them to free admission and free parking. Please contact your local state park office if interested in a senior citizen pass. Alterna or our Trenton office if interested in the disability pass 609-984-0370.

### New Jersey State Park Police

The [New Jersey State Park Police](#) is the law enforcement arm of the State Park Service who patrol and protect an excess of 453,000 acres which are visited by more than 17 million people each year. Our

Detective Bureau works alongside local, state and county prosecutors. In addition, the State Park Police's K9 Unit has bomb, patrol and cadaver dogs.

Please let your residents know they can contact the State Park Police to report suspicious activity by calling DEP's 24 hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337). The State Park Police is on duty 24/7.

### New Jersey Forest Service

The New Jersey Forest Service has several program areas which work directly with municipalities.

#### Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry Program within the NJ Forest Service works closely with local governments to encourage, promote and support the local stewardship and effective management of trees and forest ecosystems within communities through technical assistance and financial assistance. More information on the Urban and Community Forestry Program can be found by visiting [communityforestry.nj.gov](https://communityforestry.nj.gov) or by emailing [communityforestry@dep.nj.gov](mailto:communityforestry@dep.nj.gov).

#### Private Lands Program

The Private Lands Program works directly with private land owners to assist in the management of forests that they own. It doesn't matter if own 6 acres or sixty, each forested acre is an integral part of the state-wide landscape. Whether you want to maintain wildlife habitat, promote biodiversity, prevent wildfires, produce firewood, or just create an enjoyable place to escape, the Private Lands program can help. [Click here](#) to learn more.

#### Forest Health Program

The Forest Health Program surveys and monitors New Jersey's forests both from the ground and the air for various forest health threats. While most insects and diseases are part of the natural ecosystem, the Forest Service is mainly concerned with forest health threats that are invasive, spread quickly, or can have the ability to affect otherwise healthy trees. [Click here](#) to learn about current Forest Health concerns in New Jersey.

#### Big tree Conservation Program

The Big Tree Conservation Program has kept a record of the largest trees in New Jersey since the 1930s. These trees have been nominated by New Jersey residents and have environmental, aesthetic and genetic value. Additionally, some trees have historic value and should be conserved for future generations. [Click here](#) to learn more.

#### Forest Resource Education Center

The Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson is used as the education arm of the Forest Service and is a perfect fieldtrip destination for school groups. [Click here](#) to learn more. Also located on the property is the NJ Forest Service Nursery which grows over 25 evergreen and deciduous tree and shrub seedling species. The nursery sells bareroot tree seedlings through the Seedlings for Reforestation program, in packs of 50. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### State Lands Program

The State Lands program is tasked with developing management plans for the vast amount of state-owned forest lands. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Office of Natural Lands Management

The Office of Natural Lands Management administers a group of interrelated land management and planning programs and is committed to the conservation of biodiversity through excellent stewardship, and the enhancement of passive recreational opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

### Forest Fire Service

The New Jersey Forest Fire Service is the agency responsible for all wildland fires within the state of New Jersey. If your municipality falls within the wildland urban interface, also known as the area where the forest meets human development, the Forest Fire Service is an active part of your community and emergency response network.

Divided into three geographic regions, Division A covers northern New Jersey down to the Raritan River, Division B covers central New Jersey between the Raritan and Mullica Rivers, and Division C covers southern New Jersey south of the Mullica River. These divisions are then further divided into sections. Each section has a permanent Section Forest Fire Warden assigned who is responsible for that geographic area. More developed areas of the state that do not have large tracts of forest fall within our secondary response area. A map of the Forest Fire Service's divisions and sections can be found by [clicking here](#).

Please let your residents know they can contact the Forest Fire Service to report a wildland fire by calling 9-1-1 or DEP's 24 hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337).

The Forest Fire Service works closely with municipalities to teach residents how to keep their homes ["firewise"](#) and in the development of [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](#). Grants are also available through the Forest Fire Service for [volunteer fire companies](#) and communities conducting [wildland fuel mitigation projects and outreach](#).

Additionally, the Forest Fire Service is available to give presentations to schools and scout groups with the help of our friend Smokey Bear. [Please contact](#) one of our division offices for more information. More information on the Forest Fire Service can be found by visiting: [njwildfire.org](http://njwildfire.org).

## Air Quality, Energy, and Sustainability

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### Division of Air Enforcement

#### Odors

The Department or a local health department will initiate an investigation in response to complaints from one or more citizens regarding objectionable odors. To verify a complaint and issue an enforcement action, an investigation must be performed, and the investigator must verify the odor on the complainant's property; the investigator must concur that the odor "unreasonably interfered with the enjoyment of life or property." Complaints should be called in to the hotline, 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337). Should a municipality have additional questions, the Office of Local Government Assistance would be happy to provide the Air Enforcement program's "Odor Fact Sheet". In addition, general questions can be answered by staff at a regional office: Northern Regional Office (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren), 973-656-4444; Central (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean), 609-292-3187; or Southern (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem), 856-614-3601. For communities in the western part of the State, New Jersey has a joint agreement with Pennsylvania on odors; odors emanating from sites in Pennsylvania will still be addressed. New Jersey also has an interagency Odor Protocol Agreement with New York State. A copy of how DEP responds to odor complaints can be found in the odor fact sheet: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/docs/odor.pdf>.

### Division of Air Quality

#### Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

On January 17, 2020, Governor Murphy signed landmark legislation to boost the use of plug-in electric vehicles, or EVs, in New Jersey. The law creates a rebate program for EV vehicle purchases, sets goals for New Jersey's network of public charging stations, sets goals for EV sales, authorizes the Board of Public Utilities to create an incentive program for in-home EV chargers, and requires the State government to lead by example, with minimum percentages of state-owned non-emergency light duty service vehicles to convert to electric.

The "It Pay\$ to Plug In" program provides grants to offset the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle charging stations. Local governments are eligible for the grant, and information can be found at: <https://www.drivegreen.nj.gov/plugin.html>.

Information about electric vehicles in general, as well as other initiatives and partnerships, can be found on the "Drive Green" website: <https://www.drivegreen.nj.gov/>.

A summary of all incentives available for electric vehicles and charging stations can be found here: [incentivesummary.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#).

Of particular interest to municipalities is the BPU Clean Fleet Incentive Program which provides rebates for electric vehicles and charging stations. More information can be found here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/ev>.

A comprehensive list of resources for local governments as they move to electrify their fleets can be found here: [localresources.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#).

Governor Phil Murphy signed P.L. 2021, c. 171 into law on July 9, 2021. The law requires, effective July 9, 2021, that EV charging stations and Make-Ready parking spaces be designated as a permitted accessory

use in all zoning or use districts and establishes associated installation and parking requirements related to EV charging stations in New Jersey's municipalities. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) publish a statewide EV ordinance on September 1, 2021, which includes the remaining requirements ("Reasonable Standards") of the law.

## Division of Climate Change, Clean Energy and Radiation Protection

### Radon

Residents may come to the Township with concerns about radon and home testing. General information about radon can be found in several online brochures: [http://nradon.org/download/info\\_radon.pdf](http://nradon.org/download/info_radon.pdf) and <http://nradon.org/download/mitbas.pdf>. However, for specific concerns about radon levels, whether they be from drinking water levels or radon in the air, are best addressed by contacting the program directly at 609-984-5543. In addition, January is "Radon Awareness Month"; during January, information will be sent directly to municipalities.

### Sustainability

The Bureau of Sustainability conducts outreach and education on various topics, including recycling, food waste, sustainable business practices, clean energy, and general sustainability information. Those who are interested in sustainability should consider joining the Sustainability Speaker Series (S3) listserv for notifications of future S3 meetings, by sending an email to [Sustainability@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Sustainability@dep.nj.gov). The Bureau is currently running a Facebook social media campaign on sustainability. Please follow the AQES Facebook page at @NJDEPAQES and share or use any of the posts.

### Small Business Assistance Program

The Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) helps New Jersey's small businesses understand the complex world of environmental regulation. SBAP provides services such as consultations, referrals, guidance documents, education and outreach, and help to foster innovation. The SBAP was created by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which also established a Small Business Ombudsman and a Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel.

### Sustainable Business Registry

The New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry is a no-cost, voluntary program that recognizes and promotes sustainable businesses in New Jersey. Members gain access to free technical assistance, can create online company profiles documenting their sustainable practices, and are eligible for the annual New Jersey Small Business Development Center's Sustainability Award. The Registry's website is <http://registry.njsbdc.com/>.

### Sustainable Community Pages

The Sustainable Business Registry maintains a Communities section of the website dedicated to showcasing communities that are certified Sustainable Jersey municipalities, who are working with their local business community to implement and promote sustainable business practices. Communities featured on the webpage receive a GIS story map that highlights the local businesses that are members of the NJ Sustainable Business Registry. This helps promote sustainable businesses to sustainably minded consumers. For information on how a community can be featured on the webpage, contact the Bureau of Sustainability at 609-633-0631.



### School Food Waste Guidance

The Bureau of Sustainability has developed School Food Waste Guidelines for K-12 schools and higher education institutions. The Guidelines provide information on best practices for managing food waste at schools. The Guidelines are available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/sfwg/index.htm>.

### WasteWise Business Network

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn about the environmental and economic benefits associated with waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement. Membership benefits include access to helpful information, resources and quarterly newsletters, biannual educational meetings, technical assistance and promotional opportunities.

## Water Resource Management

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### Division of Water Supply & Geoscience

#### Drinking Water Systems

For a broad overview about how drinking water systems work, the Department encourages municipalities to read the following document from the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP): [https://www.rcap.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Non-operators-Guide-to-DRINKING-WATER-Systems\\_Small.pdf](https://www.rcap.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Non-operators-Guide-to-DRINKING-WATER-Systems_Small.pdf).

Depending on the ownership of the water purveyor that serves a town, a municipality may have certain responsibilities regarding its operation. The water system that serves a municipality may be owned by an investor-owned water company (e.g. New Jersey American, Suez) or an authority (e.g. Municipal Utility Authority). These entities are responsible for operating the water system, maintaining compliance with all pertinent regulations, and making the appropriate investments into the water system. However, there is still a need to maintain open communication and a positive working relationship with a municipality's water purveyor, particularly in the event of emergency situations to ensure that a municipality's residents are fully informed as situations progress.

If a municipality's water system is owned by the municipality, the municipality would need to take on a higher level of responsibility. Depending on the size of the public water system, it must retain a Licensed Operator with the appropriate license (N.J.A.C. 7:10A). This individual is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the water system, maintaining compliance with all pertinent regulations, and should make recommendations for necessary capital improvements.

#### Water Accountability Act

The Water Quality Accountability Act (WQAA) (P.L. 2017, c. 133), enhanced the responsibilities of mayors by requiring an annual certification of compliance with all federal and State drinking water requirements to be signed by the mayor or chief executive officer of the municipality, if that water system is owned by that municipality. Note that this requirement only applies to public community water systems with **more than 500 service connections**. This certification is due **December 31<sup>st</sup>** each year. While your water system's Licensed Operator should be able to assist in completing the certification form accurately, only the mayor's signature, or that of chief executive officer of the municipality (depending on your organizational structure) is acceptable. More information about the WQAA can be found at [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g\\_reg-wqaa.html](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g_reg-wqaa.html).



For all other information about water supply issues, the DEP's Division of Water Supply & Geoscience's website is regularly updated, and can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/index.html>.

### Lead Service Line Replacement

In July 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law [P.L. 2021, C. 183](#). This law requires all community water systems to identify and replace all lead service lines by 2031. This replacement requirement applies, even if the service line is partially owned by the property-owner, and the water system. Annual updates to lead service line inventories are due to the Department each July, and for water systems serving more than 3,300 persons, lead service line inventories must be posted on the water system's website.

If your municipality owns its own water system, your water system's staff should already be engaged in implementing these requirements. There are also a few considerations to keep in mind going forward: The legislature passed a few laws that may assist in implementing these requirements.

[P.L. 2018 C. 114](#), allows municipalities to levy special assessments, or issue bonds to replace lead service lines.

[P.L. 2018 C. 291](#) allows municipalities to adopt ordinances which allow for the entry onto private property for lead service line replacement.

The cost of lead service line replacement may recovered through individual assessments on property owners OR across the entire rate base. It would be advisable to discuss cost recovery options with your constituents on the best path forward for your municipality. The Department also is providing options for water systems with funding assistance through its Water Infrastructure Investment Plan, and the NJ Water Bank. Please visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/wiip/> for more details.

If your municipality is served by an investor-owned water system, note that they are responsible for implementing this law's requirements. They may recover the costs of replacement across their entire rate base, but NOT on individual property owners, and are also eligible for funding through the NJ Water Bank. It is strongly recommended to maintain open lines of communication with your water provider as they comply with this law, as there will be significant logistical hurdles in order for lead replacement projects to proceed.

For more information about this law, and lead in drinking water, please visit the Department's webpage on lead at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/lead/>.

### Division of Water Quality

#### Contaminants of Emerging Concern

In 2018, and 2020, the Department adopted monitoring and treatment requirements for PFNA, then PFOA and PFOS for water systems in New Jersey. These three contaminants, part of a family of compounds commonly referred to as PFAS, or "forever chemicals", pose certain health risks, and have been detected across the state. The treatment needs can be costly and take a significant amount of time to put in place, therefore it is worthwhile to maintain awareness of issues related to PFAS, especially as there is public interest in the topic.

If your municipality owns its own water system, it would be worthwhile to ask your water system's licensed operator about the current status of PFAS monitoring requirements for your system. While some systems have been granted monitoring frequency reductions because their monitoring has shown sufficiently low levels of PFASs, others have been issued violations because PFAS levels are greater than

the regulatory standards in New Jersey. Having an understanding of what levels of PFAS may be in your system's water can help you prepare for inquiries from the public, or plan for any necessary system upgrades. If your municipality is served by an investor-owned water system, it would be worthwhile to ask similar questions of them too. However, the responsibility of compliance with the State's drinking water standards rests with them.

The Department is maintaining a webpage with more information about PFAS in drinking water at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

Another contaminant of emerging concern that the Department is taking certain actions on is 1,4-dioxane. Unlike the 3 PFASs referenced above, there is not currently a regulatory standard for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water. However, a Maximum Contaminant Level recommendation from the [NJ Drinking Water Quality Institute](#), a scientific advisory board which provides such recommendations to the Department, was identified as 0.33 µg/L. A few water systems in NJ have proactively conducted monitoring, and installed treatment which can remove this contaminant below the recommended MCL. But as the treatment is both sophisticated and expensive, and a regulatory standard is not yet in place, it can be challenging for water systems to take actions to install treatment facilities proactively.

More information about 1,4-dioxane is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/14-dioxane/>

### NJ Infrastructure Bank

The New Jersey Water Bank (NJWB), which administers New Jersey's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Drinking Water SRF, is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (NJIB). NJWB provides low-cost financing for the design, construction, and implementation of projects that protect, maintain, and improve water quality and projects to ensure safe drinking water. The priorities and policies of the NJWB are established annually through the Clean Water and Drinking Water Intended Use Plans (IUPs). The proposed and final IUPs for both Clean Water and Drinking Water are available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm>. <https://www.nj.gov/dep/wiip/project-lists.html>.

## Division of Water Monitoring & Standards

### Integrated Report

All states are required by the Clean Water act to biennially prepare and submit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a report addressing the overall water quality of the State's waters, including support of designated uses (drinking water, aquatic life, recreation, shellfish). States are also required to develop a list of waters that currently do not meet, or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based controls. This list is known as the 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters or "303(d) List." Information may be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/assessment.htm>.

### Category One Waters

Category One (C1) is an antidegradation designation that is designed to protect high quality waters from degradation. C1 waters are protected from any "measurable change" to existing water quality because of their exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water supply significance, or their significance as an exceptional fisheries resource. Details may be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/workgroups/swqs.html>.

### AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program

NJWAP is a community-oriented program designed to raise awareness about water issues in New Jersey. AmeriCorps is a national service initiative and the DEP began hosting this AmeriCorps program in 2000. Through this program, Ambassadors are placed at local host sites in twenty (20) Watershed Management Areas (WMAs) and are available to make FREE environmental education presentations to community organizations and schools. These interactive presentations provide information about water issues in New Jersey. The Ambassadors educate students and citizens about watersheds and encourage them to get involved in local stewardship actions such as picking up after pets, conserving water, installing rain gardens, or volunteering for a stream cleanup. They also assess the local rivers and streams using both visual and biological assessment protocols. Through an online database, this assessment data is provided to the DEP and is also available to the public. To learn more, go to <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/americorps.htm>.

### Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms

The DEP has a Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Response Strategy to provide a unified statewide approach to respond to cyanobacterial HABs in freshwater recreational waters and sources of drinking water. A color-coded health Alert index is used to provide the public with clear guidance on suitable recreational activities in freshwater lakes and other water bodies impacted by harmful algal blooms. The DEP coordinates sampling and lab analysis responses to suspected HABs and reports data and Alerts on the HAB Dashboard [NJDEP Harmful Algal Bloom \(HAB\) Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). You can also learn more on the [DEP HAB page](#).

### Beach Program

In cooperation with the NJDOH and local health authorities, DEP staff assess the water quality at coastal public recreational bathing beaches, provide notification and respond to pollution incidents in coastal waters. This includes weekly water monitoring from mid-May through September and the posting of advisories and closures of beaches. Supporting components of the [beach program](#) include:

- [Environmental coastal monitoring](#) where we assess water quality and provide notification online at coastal primary recreation locations that are not lifeguarded.
- [Aerial Surveillance](#) with the Forest Fire Service, flying over the coast six days a week (and several lakes one day a week) with a flight observer looking for anything potentially harmful to bathers such as trash slicks, floatable debris, algae, oil slicks, and visually inspect the 14-ocean wastewater treatment plant outfalls. In addition, a [remote hyperspectral sensor](#) is installed on the bottom of the aircraft to estimate chlorophyll *a* and cyanobacteria concentrations as an early indicator tool to detect harmful algal blooms.
- Source Tracking at recreational bathing locations that have chronic water quality issues to identify the bacterial source and work with local government to eliminate the source.
- [Clean Shores Program](#) with the Department of Corrections utilizing inmate details to conduct daily cleanups year-round to enhance the beauty of the State's natural resources, protect wildlife habitat in sensitive ecosystems, improve human health, and provide safer navigation in the State's waterways.

### Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement

- **Worker Protection:** There are approximately 8,000 Farms in New Jersey. About 3,500 farms have commodities, such as fruits and vegetables which employ 16,000+ agricultural workers every year (including migrant workers). Although Spanish is the predominant language spoken by farm workers, there are 10+ different languages spoken depending on where you are located in New Jersey. The Worker Protection Standards (WPS) Program governs the safety protocols regulating the possible exposure that workers have to pesticides and the measures to educate, minimize and reduce exposure to pesticides via a comprehensive program that consists of Certification, Registration, Outreach and Enforcement. For additional information please visit our website at [www.pcpnj.org](http://www.pcpnj.org).
- **School - Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** There are approximately 3,500 public, private, religious and charter schools in New Jersey. Most schools do “contract out” pesticide control utilizing competitive bidding as required under the Local Public Contract requirements, so most pest control is performed by licensed pest control companies. New Jersey’s School Integrated Pest Management Act was adopted in 2002 to reduce pesticide exposure for all New Jersey K/Pre-school through 12 grade students. The School IPM program requires an IPM Policy, a site specific IPM Plan with an annual review, application records with daily activities to control pests and the management of pesticides used indoors and outdoors. For additional information please visit our website at [www.pcpnj.org](http://www.pcpnj.org).
- **Licensed Applicators:** Pesticide Licenses involve Pesticide Applicator Businesses, Applicators and Operators. There are 18,000+ licensed individuals in New Jersey; with approximately 8,000 Commercial Pesticide Applicators licensed in 28 various categories. In most cases, Pesticide Applicators must fulfill the training requirements prior to applying for the exams. After completing the required training, the applicant must take and pass a minimum of two exams, a Core Exam and Category exam. Licensed Applicators must also maintain their licenses by completing a minimum number of continuing education credits over a five-year period. Applicators are typically licensed in commercial enterprises of various types and sizes, as well as, in Municipal, County and State agencies. Applicators licensed in an agricultural setting are categorized as Private Applicators.

There are approximately 18,000 licensed individuals in New Jersey with the following breakdown of licensed Categories:

2643	Applicator Businesses
8004	Certified Applicators
198	Certified Dealers
6552	Certified Operators
101	Pesticide Dealer Businesses
445	Private Applicators

Additionally, the program registers over 16,000 pesticide products for use in New Jersey. For additional information please visit our website at [www.pcpnj.org](http://www.pcpnj.org).

## Watershed and Land Management

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### Reorganization

To further our goal of ameliorating the catastrophic effects of flooding that so many communities across the State regularly experience, the Climate and Flood Resilience Bureaus including Coastal Engineering, Dam Safety and Flood Engineering, and Climate Resilience Engineering have been relocated into a new Division of Resilience Engineering and Construction under Vince Mazzei, Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management. The newly formed Division is led by Dennis Reinknecht as Director.

### WLM Division of Resilience Engineering and Construction

#### Office of Dam Safety and Flood Engineering

##### *Bureau of Dam Safety*

The Bureau of Dam Safety reviews plans and specifications for the construction of new dams or for the alteration, repair, or removal of existing dams. Engineers from the Bureau evaluate each project, and they periodically inspect existing dams to assure they are adequately maintained. For questions about municipally-owned dams, the Office of Local Government Assistance would be happy to put municipalities in touch with the Bureau.

##### *Bureau of Flood Engineering*

The Bureau is responsible for implementing flood risk reduction projects to protect life and property in New Jersey from the devastating effects of flooding and climate change. These projects include both large federal and smaller state flood reduction projects. The Bureau provides floodplain management assistance to local communities throughout the state through our grant agreement under National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Assistance Program. The Bureau encourages communities to participate in the FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) that provides discount to residents on their flood insurance policies. Kunal Patel, Bureau Chief, is the NJ State NFIP Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating NFIP program aspects of floodplain management throughout the State for 553 NFIP participating communities and coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Bureau of Flood Engineering also works on updating federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps depicting Special Flood Hazard Area and updating federal Flood Insurance Studies that are utilized for regulatory use and for flood insurance purposes. For questions on specific projects, the Office of Local Government Assistance can put municipalities in touch with the Bureau directly.

#### Office of Coastal Engineering

New Jersey has 127 miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and 83 miles of shoreline along the Raritan and Delaware Bays. New Jersey's Shore Protection Program provides for the protection of life and property along the coast, preserving the vital coastal resources of the state, and maintaining safe and navigable waterways. The Division of Coastal Engineering is responsible for administering beach nourishment, shore protection, coastal dredging projects, maintaining aids to navigation, conducting storm surveys, damage assessments and emergency repairs for coastal storms. They partner with research centers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For questions on specific projects, the Office of Local Government Assistance can put municipalities in touch with the Office directly.

## Dataminer

The status of a permit application can be determined using the Department's Dataminer application (<https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner#>). The information provided is the best available according to the procedures and standards of each of the contributing programs. The Department's programs are regularly maintaining the information in their databases, in order to maintain the quality and timeliness of the data.

## Electronic Submission

The Department has amended the land resource rules to require electronic submission of applications for all general permit authorizations, individual permits, freshwater wetland transition area waivers, and flood hazard verifications that are submitted in conjunction with a permit application. As of October 5, 2021, paper applications are no longer being accepted for these approvals. All application materials are required to be submitted in an electronic format through an electronic submission service. This includes the submission of electronic site plans (e-plans) with a digital signature and seal. The entire application can therefore be made easily accessible to the general public through Dataminer (<https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner#>) as well as to all Department staff, facilitating collaboration to reduce processing times. Electronic plans allow parallel collaboration between applicants and other agencies to review and markup plans, share comments, and more quickly and easily identify potential conflicts and issues. The electronic submission service also reduces processing times by checking for administrative completeness and addressing common technical deficiencies.

## Flooding

Many communities in New Jersey experience localized flooding after even short rain events. The Office of Local Government Assistance has compiled some general resources to help alleviate the concerns from flooding.

In 2018, Watershed and Land Management published a Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules Technical Manual ([https://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/download/fh\\_044.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/download/fh_044.pdf)) to foster greater understanding of the regulatory standards and information required to obtain a permit under these rules. The manual supplements the rules by explaining provisions and guiding potential applicants in how to meet those standards and demonstrate compliance in a permit application. For specific information concerning the FHACA Rules, please contact WLM at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/contact.html>. Should a municipality wish to meet with the flood hazard permitting office, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Office of Local Government Assistance, who can help organize a meeting.

In addition, general information concerning flooding beyond the Department's flood hazard permitting office can be found on the NJDEP Bureau of Flood Engineering website, here: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol/about.htm>. Their Community Assistance Program can be reached via <https://www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol/fcstaff.htm> to discuss what options or technical support may be possible.

There may also be opportunities for green design and infrastructure, which can help control or stabilize inland flooding (rain gardens etc.). Municipalities may want to consider reaching out to Rutgers University and the Water Resources Program within the Cooperative Extension (<http://www.water.rutgers.edu/>). They have staff working directly in communities with Green Infrastructure and other water resource projects. Another potential source of support is Jersey Water

Works, <http://www.jerseywaterworks.org/>; they also have staff assigned to work with communities. Sustainable Jersey also has guidance on rain gardens (<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/112>) and community gardens (<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/52>). The DEP's general page on green infrastructure can be found here: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>.

The Department encourages you to work with the municipal stormwater coordinator to ensure the conditions of the MS4 permit are being met (i.e. routine maintenance of storm drains, which can also alleviate flooding). The municipal engineer and stormwater coordinator would also be welcome to join any discussions the municipality has with DEP.

The Department of Community Affairs may also have resources to help municipalities. Local Planning Services, an office within DCA, can provide technical assistance to municipalities on special projects. They offer comprehensive planning services at no cost to local governments. Municipalities may wish to work with their Local Planning board and this DCA service to see if they can include flood control considerations and projects in their master plan. They can be reached at (609) 292-3000; [www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps](http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps); [LPSmail@dca.nj.gov](mailto:LPSmail@dca.nj.gov).

Communities may also wish to engage in stream cleaning or desnagging of local waterways. The Office of Local Government Assistance is happy to provide guidance for these activities; depending on how municipalities plan to remove obstructions and sediment accumulation, these activities may require a permit from the Water and Land Management Program.

### Public Access

New Jersey's tourism economy relies heavily on the public access to the shore and riverfront communities, including fishing and boating. The public's right to access tidal waters and their shorelines, embodied in the Public Trust Doctrine, existed prior to the inception as a state and continues today. The Public Trust Doctrine is the principle that tidal waters and shorelines are preserved for public use and that the government is required to maintain them for the public's reasonable use. A public access map, and frequently asked questions, can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/>.

Municipalities have the opportunity to develop public access plans that reflect their self-determined priorities for enhancing public access to tidal waters. Information about this process can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/mpap.htm>.

### Stormwater Utilities

The Stormwater Utility Law, signed in March 2019, gives local and county governments the ability to create stormwater utilities. Funds generated from these utilities can be used to improve infrastructure that protects water quality, prevents localized flooding, and complies with other MS4 stormwater requirements. According to the law, a utility fee must be a "fair and equitable approximation of the proportionate contribution of stormwater runoff from a real property." A stormwater utility is defined as an organization who assesses fees and uses the revenue from these fees to maintain infrastructure designed to reduce pollutants into water bodies and provide control of stormwater to prevent flooding conditions.

Under the law, DEP was obligated to provide guidance covering technical assistance to set up a utility, rate-setting, asset management, and public education. When a utility is created, DEP and the



Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will be responsible for receiving submissions by local and county governments that demonstrate the local governments' compliance with the law. DEP has released this guidance and it is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/stormwaterutility.html>. Additionally, DEP will be using this website as a repository of information required under the law.

### Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4) Renewal

Every municipality that operates a separate storm sewer system that discharges to surface or ground water of the State is permitted through the Department's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permitting program. This includes every municipality except for: East Newark Borough, Guttenberg Town, Tavistock Borough, Union City, Walpack Township, Weehawken Township, and West New York Town. It is the Department's understanding these municipalities do not operate MS4s. The Department's MS4 permits are set to expire at the end of 2022. To that end, the Department is working on renewing the permits this year. The Department anticipates releasing a pre-draft of this permit in the near future and will be conducting outreach to discuss the potential changes to the permits before an official draft of the permit is released. Information on the Department's MS4 program can be found here: [https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/msrp\\_home.htm](https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/msrp_home.htm).

### Amended Stormwater Management Rules and Ordinances

One of the provisions of each municipality's MS4 permit is a requirement to have a local stormwater control ordinance that is at least as stringent as the State's Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8. On March 2, 2020 the Department adopted amendments to the New Jersey Stormwater Management rules. Most substantially, these amendments replaced the previous requirement that major developments incorporate nonstructural stormwater management strategies to the "maximum extent practicable" to meet groundwater recharge standards, stormwater runoff quantity standards, and stormwater runoff quality standards, with a requirement that green infrastructure be utilized to meet these same standards. The amendments also changed the total suspended solids (TSS) removal requirement applicability to apply to the runoff from motor vehicle surfaces, even those that are not considered impervious. With these changes to the Stormwater Management rules, each MS4 permitted municipality was required to update their stormwater control ordinance to remain as stringent as the Department's amended rules. Also on March 2, 2020, the Department notified every municipality of this required update to their ordinance. Under their MS4 permit, municipalities have a time period of one year to have the revised stormwater control ordinance in effect after receiving notification from the Department of the required change. Thus, these ordinances were required to be updated and effective by March of 2021. If a municipality has not already adopted and obtained County approval for a revised ordinance they should do so immediately, as the deadline to update the ordinance has now passed. Pursuant to the Stormwater Management Act, County approval is required before the revised ordinance can become effective. Further, ordinances conditionally approved by the County must be revised in accordance with the conditions of the approval before the ordinance can become effective.



## Other Program Areas

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### Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests

In accordance with the Open Public Records Act, NJDEP makes available its public records through formal requests to the Department's Office of Record Access. Under the Act, the State has five business days within receipt of the request to acknowledge and respond to the request. Requests may be submitted in writing by submitting a paper "records request form" or by completing the online form found on the [DEP OPRA website](#). Additionally, many commonly requested records can be found online immediately on the [DEP DataMiner interface](#). Finally, links to access the most commonly requested information can be found [here](#).

### Office of Permitting and Project Navigation

The DEP Office of Permitting and Project Navigation (OPPN), facilitates the permitting of complex projects that cross multiple DEP interests. For such projects, OPPN acts as the primary project consultant and provides a guidance between all interested programs, prior to the submission of any applications. OPPN provides a project checklist, attached here, to help potential applicants better determine project readiness. Use of the readiness checklist will help identify if a planned project is ready for detailed review by the Department, and to identify any potential regulatory issues that may need to be addressed. More information about OPPN can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/oppn/>.

### Seasonal Concerns

During summer months, the State conducts a beach monitoring program, the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program (CCMP). The CCMP is a partnership with county and local health agencies and is managed in the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring. Activities include weekly water quality monitoring at approximately 215 ocean and bay bathing beaches, aerial surveillance of the coast six days a week, and public notification of beach and bathing conditions. Throughout the summer, daily updates and flight updates are posted to the recreational bathing beach information web page, [www.njbeaches.org](http://www.njbeaches.org).

For the colder months, DEP is also available to help communities in snowstorms. The Office of Local Government Assistance will distribute information prior to any snow event, but it is best to designate snow disposal sites before a storm hits. Snow disposal sites should be in upland areas as far as possible from waterways and wetlands; this protects these environmentally sensitive areas from road salt and other potential contaminants that may be present in snow removed from roads and parking lots. If such choices are unavailable either due to the anticipated snow volume or public safety concerns, DEP will consider allowing snow disposal in certain larger water bodies, either in emergency situations or on a case-by-case basis. Those exceptions must be first approved by DEP, and can be obtained by calling DEP's emergency hotline, 1-877-WARN-DEP. Again, the Office of Local Government Assistance will be available to discuss in further detail prior to an anticipated storm.

In addition, the DEP's Division of Water Quality reminds municipalities to take appropriate precautionary measures in preparation for possible flooding and/or power outages. Should a municipality be interested, they can provide a checklist on storm preparation, which the Office of Local Government Assistance will be happy to send to the municipality. Again, the Office of Local Government Assistance distributes this information prior to a storm as well. For any contaminated sites for which the municipality is responsible, all efforts should be made to prevent new discharges at these sites and to maintain active remediation systems. After the storm, all sites should be re-evaluated to determine if any immediate environmental concerns needing action arose. For topic-specific questions

regarding site remediation during storms, please refer to the [Site Remediation Program contact list](#). Again, the DEP's 24-hour emergency hotline, 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) is available for issues of immediate environmental concern.

Throughout all seasons, the Office of Local Government Assistance will be in touch if communities are expecting a major weather event. In addition, Office of Local Government Assistance is on call during nights and weekends should a significant storm be predicted. If a municipality has any needs during the storm, please feel free to call at any time. Prior to any event, the Department reminds municipalities that stormwater runoff contributes greatly to the addition of pathogens to our waterways. Sources of these pathogens include pet waste, wildlife feeding, and illicit connections. It is important to remember that each municipality has the responsibility to properly maintain their stormwater systems and should also have ordinances regarding the feeding of wildlife, controlling of pet waste, and elimination of illicit connections. Ensuring the implementation of these ordinances should lead to fewer pathogens entering our waterways. Before and after a storm, it is important to help prevent localized flooding by clearing any blockages caused by debris from storm drain catch basins, always taking the appropriate precautions. Again, DEP will always be available for assistance during storms.

### Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI)

The Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI) is a place-based partnership that promotes quality of life in New Jersey's distressed communities. CCI aligns interests that support environmental and community revitalization, equitable economic development, and enhanced public health outcomes. CCI strives to continually evolve the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's role as a regulator by engaging the community as a partner. Through this effort, CCI hopes to better realize the Department's mission by bringing positive change to overburdened communities and being a leader in transformative government.

CCI is focused on 12 cities: Bayonne, Bridgeton, Camden, Jersey City, Millville, Newark, Paterson, Paulsboro, Perth Amboy, Salem, Trenton, and Vineland. To find out more information, you can visit the website: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/cci/>.

### Green Acres

The Green Acres Program provides matching grants to municipalities to preserve land for open space, conservation, or recreation, that provides public access. Green Acres also provides grants/low-interest loans to municipal governments to develop outdoor recreation facilities. Green Acres works with local governments from the time of application through project completion. For more information about this funding, please call (609) 984-0570 or email [GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov](mailto:GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov). General information can be found on the [Green Acres website](#).

### Blue Acres

The Blue Acres program is a program that works with homeowners who have suffered repetitive flooding, are prone to storm damage, or buffer/protect other lands from storm damage, though it is not a funding program. Blue Acres purchases are completed by the State and must be from willing sellers. (More information can be found on the [Blue Acres website](#)).

### Historic Preservation Process

New Jersey has a rich history, from the Revolution onward. The Department is responsible for the management of historic sites in New Jersey through the Historic Preservation Office (HPO). If a municipality has questions about a historic site, what having that designation entails, or how to have something listed on the New Jersey or National Register of Historic Places, please let the Office of Local Government Assistance know.

The first step to having a site listed on the New Jersey Register is to prepare and submit a “preliminary application.” The purpose of this step is to evaluate whether the site meets the National Register eligibility criteria. The Office of Local Government Assistance will be happy to provide these forms if desired, which should be accompanied by photographs of the building or site (inside and outside if appropriate), a map showing the location of the building or site, and readily available information about the history of the site. Once HPO receives the preliminary application, staff will review the documentation and determine whether the property meets the National Register criteria. If HPO staff determines that the property meets the National Register criteria, then the requester can move forward with preparing a formal National Register nomination form. The National Register nomination form is required to formally list a property on the NJ and National Registers of Historic Places.

### Asbestos

Should a resident inquire about asbestos removal, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has jurisdiction over the actual asbestos removal. In general, they will walk a party through the process of either hiring an asbestos abatement contractor or advising them on the next appropriate steps. For more specific information, please contact the Office of Asbestos Control and Licensing at (609) 633-3760. If there are questions about asbestos waste management after it is removed, that would fall into DEP’s jurisdiction. For specific information questions on that topic, please feel free to contact the NJDEP Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management at (908) 984-4608.

### Abandoned and Unclaimed Property

Municipalities may have abandoned property in the municipality, where an owner cannot be traced, or a previous owner passed away without designating heirs. If someone passes away without a will, and family cannot be identified, their property will “escheat” to the State of New Jersey. For more information, a municipality can contact the Bureau of Unclaimed Property in the New Jersey Department of the Treasury; [unclaimedreports@treas.nj.gov](mailto:unclaimedreports@treas.nj.gov), 609.292.9200, <http://www.unclaimedproperty.nj.gov/>.

### Further Information Available

In addition to the information above, the Office of Local Government Assistance have many fact sheets available for distribution. Please feel free to contact the office for a copy of fact sheets or guidance on any of the following topics:

Asbestos

Beach and Dune Maintenance Guidelines

Coastal Land Use Enforcement Restoration Guidance Document

Community Forestry Management Program Guidelines

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Planning Services

Emerald Ash Borers Preparation Checklist

Freshwater Wetland General Permit Checklist

Highlands Septic Rule Factsheet

Land Use staff assigned to your municipality for freshwater wetlands and Stream Cleaning concerns

Letter of Interpretation application for freshwater wetlands

MS4 Tier A and Tier B Guidelines

Municipal Public Access Plan Application Form

Municipal Public Access Plan Template

New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (I-Bank) Information

Odor Fact Sheet

Pennsylvania and New Jersey agreement to address odor complaints across State lines

Septic: Frequently Asked Questions

Septic Rule

Sinkhole Summary

Solid Waste Sinkhole Guidance

Spotted Lanternfly

Spill Act exemptions

Stream Cleaning Regulations

Watershed Ambassador List for your region